

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please cancel Claims 1-23, and insert new Claims 24-27 as follows.

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1. - 23. (Cancelled)

24. (New) An image pickup apparatus comprising:

an image pickup element formed on a single semiconductor substrate, the image pickup element including:

a pixel area having pixels arranged two-dimensionally, and having a scanning circuit for reading out signals from the pixels;

an amplifier provided in common to the pixel area for outputting sequentially the signals from the pixels; and

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a plurality of processing circuits arranged so that at least one processing circuit is disposed along each of opposite sides of the pixel area, wherein one of said processing circuits performs a predetermined processing for the pixel area from which a signal is output through the amplifier, or performs a predetermined processing on the signal output from the amplifier, and wherein another said processing circuit, disposed along an opposite side of the pixel area from said one processing circuit, performs a predetermined processing for the pixel area from which the signal is output through the amplifier, or performs a predetermined processing on the signal output from the amplifier; and

a lens for focusing light onto the pixels arranged two-dimensionally, wherein the lens and image pickup element are integrated into a unit.

25. (New) An apparatus according to claim 24, further comprising:  
a signal processing circuit for processing signals from the image pickup element; and  
a memory for storing a signal from the signal processing circuit.

26. (New) An apparatus according to claim 24, wherein first and second processing circuits disposed respectively along the opposite sides of the pixel area each includes, at least one of an A/D conversion circuit, a clock circuit for supplying a clock signal, an electric power source circuit, and an analog circuit including at least one of an auto gate controller and a correlated double sampling circuit, and wherein said first and second processing circuits are different circuits.

27. (New) An apparatus according to claim 26, further comprising:  
a signal processing circuit for processing signals from the image pickup element; and  
a memory for storing a signal from the signal processing.